

Welcome to St. John's Church



A Traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

December 15, 2024

4:00 p.m.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**78 Green Hill Road
Washington, CT 06793**

Parish Office Telephone: (860) 868-2527

Parish Office Hours: *Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.*

St. John's Email: stjohnschurch@snet.net

St. John's Website: <http://stjohnswashington.com/>

St. John's YouTube Page:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoOwTnqIRss4BT8VwFul4qg>

A TRADITIONAL SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first celebrated at King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve, 1918. It was an adaptation of a similar service that had been written for the cathedral at Truro in 1880. The lessons were reordered in 1919, and what follows are the lessons that have been used since that time. At King's College, the Festival is a Christmas Eve service, and the lessons, and music, move deliberately from the season of Advent into Christmastide. Many other parishes have adopted the tradition, occasionally modifying it as needed, and it is not unusual to omit a reading or two.

Prelude *A Medley of French Carols*

L'adieu des bergers from *l'Enfance du Christ* Hector Berlioz (1803-1869)

Translation: Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling, the humble crib, the stable bare. Babe, all mortal babes excelling, content our earthly lot to share. Loving father, Loving mother, shelter thee with tender care!

Un flambeau, Jeannette, Isabelle Nicolas Saboly (1614-1675)

Translation: Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella, bring a torch, come swiftly and run. Christ is born, tell the folk of the village, Jesus is sleeping in His cradle, Ah, ah, beautiful is the Mother, ah, ah, beautiful is her Son.

The Call to Worship with the tolling of the church bell

Processional Hymn # 102 *Once In Royal David's City*

first and second verses sung by choir only

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a
 2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is
 *3 We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a
 4 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly,
 *5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his
 6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the

1 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her
 2 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a
 3 sta - ble should dis - play hea - ven's Word, the world's cre -
 4 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -
 5 own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so
 6 ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in

1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry
 2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the
 3 a - tor, cra - dled there on Christ - mas Day, yet this
 4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he
 5 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he
 6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -

1 was that mo - ther mild, — Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child. —
 2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
 3 child, our Lord and bro - ther, brought us love for one an - oth - er.
 4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 5 leads his chil - dren on — to the place where he is gone. —
 6 vealed to faith - ful eye, — set at God's right hand on high. —

A Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, in this Christmastide, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this city.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

Anthem: *Gesu Bambino* Pietro A. Yon (1886-1943)

*Translation: When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night,
Was born the Child the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light.
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced,
And at His blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

THE FIRST LESSON

read by Penny Bardel

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise
and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

The man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of

your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it’, cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

After each Reading, the Reader may say
The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem: Adam Lay Ybounden Boris Ord (1897-1961)

Text: Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond; four thousand winters thought he not too long.
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took, as clerkes finden written in their book.
Nay had the apple taken been, the apple taken been, nay had never our lady, Abeen heavenly queen.
Blessed be the time that apple taken was; therefore we moun singen, Deo gracias, Deo gracias!

THE SECOND LESSON read by Jay Bauer

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.”

After each Reading, the Reader may say
The Word of the Lord.

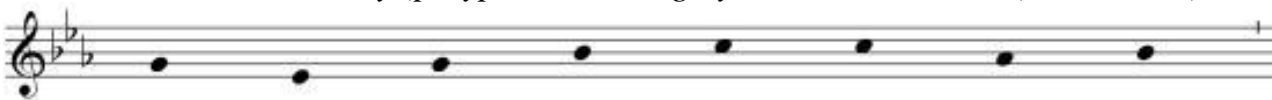
People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn # 60: Creator Of the Stars Of Night

Verses four and six sung by choir only

Verse 4: Choir only (harmonization by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

Verse 6: Choir only (polyphonic setting by Orlando di Lasso (1532-1594)



1	Cre	-	a	-	tor	of	the	stars	of	night,
2	In	sor	-	row	that	the	an	-	cient	curse
3	When	this	old	world	drew	on	toward	night,		
4	At	your	great	Name,	O	Je	-	sus,	now	
5	Come	in	your	ho	-	ly	might,	we	pray,	
*6	To	God	the	Fa	-	ther,	God	the	Son,	



1 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,
2 should doom to death a u - ni - verse,
3 you came; but not in splen - dor bright,
4 all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
5 re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;
6 and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,



1 O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,
2 you came, O Sa - vior, to set free
3 not as a mon - arch, but the child
4 all things on earth with one ac - cord,
5 de - fend us while we dwell be - low
6 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



1 we pray you hear us when we call.
2 your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.
3 of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.
4 like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.
5 from all as - saults of our dread foe.
6 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

THE THIRD LESSON

read by Rebecca Bent

God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his

flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

After each Reading, the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Anthem: *He Shall Feed His Flock from the Messiah*

George Frederic Handel (1685-1759)

Text: He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, and He shall gather the lambs with his arm. And carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. Come unto Him all ye that labour, come unto Him, ye that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest. Take his yoke upon you, and learn of Him. For He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

THE FOURTH LESSON

read by the Reverend Dr. Lisa Hahneman

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
With righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

After each Reading, the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Hymn # 81*Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming*

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
 * 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung,
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
 dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to
 true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

THE FIFTH LESSON*read by Mary Davis**The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one!

The LORD is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the LORD God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the LORD; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

After each Reading, the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Anthem *Ave Maria* Franz Biebl (1906-2001)

Translation: The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary, and she conceived by the Holy Spirit. Behold the handmaid of the Lord: be it unto me according to thy word. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

THE SIXTH LESSON

read by Laura Daly

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

After each Reading, the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Anthem: *O Holy Night* Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining; It is the night of our dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining 'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born, O night, O night, O night divine! Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming, With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand. So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, Here come the Wise Men from Orient land. The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger, In all our trials born to be our friend. He knows our need, he guards us from all danger. Behold your King; before the lowly bend. Behold your King; before the lowly bend.

THE SEVENTH LESSON

read by John Magee

The shepherds go to the manger.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the LORD stood before them, and the glory of the LORD shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the LORD. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the LORD has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

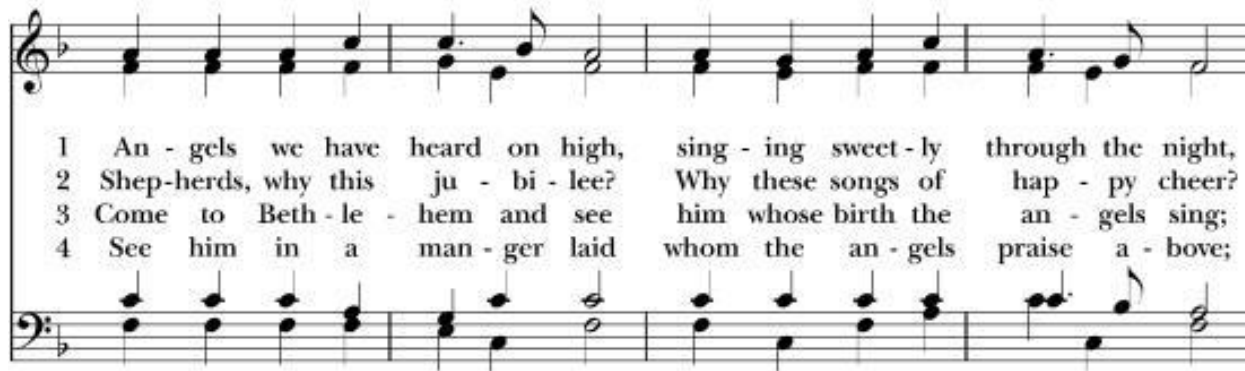
After each Reading, the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Hymn # 96 *Angels We Have Heard On High*

first verse sung by choir only



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;



and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

THE EIGHTH LESSON

read by Sara Coles

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
 are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
 for from you shall come a ruler
 who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went

the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

After each Reading, the Reader may say
The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

***An offering for the St. John's Music Program
will be taken during this anthem, please be generous in your support.***

Anthem *Omnes de Saba Venient* Orlando di Lasso (1532-1594)

Translation: All they from Sheba shall come, bringing gold and frankincense, and showing forth praise to the Lord. Alleluia. The kings of Tharsis and the islands shall offer presents, the kings of the Arabians and Sheba shall bring gifts. Alleluia.

Hymn: # 119 *As With Gladness Men of Old*

third verse sung by choir only

1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly man - ger - bed;
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man - ger rude and bare;
4 Ho - ly Je - sus! ev - ery day keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heaven - ly coun - try bright, need they no cre - a - ted light;

1 as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
2 there to bend the knee be - fore him whom heaven and earth a - dore;
3 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
4 and, when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
5 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down:

1 so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led to thee.
 2 so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek the mer-cy-seat.
 3 all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ! to thee, our heav-en-ly King.
 4 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.
 5 there for ev-er may we sing al-le-lu-ias to our King.

THE NINTH LESSON

read by the Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

After each Reading, the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Anthem

Verbum Caro Factum Est

Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)

Translation: And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

THE FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING

The Celebrant says to the people

God be with you.

People ***And with thy spirit.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

Merciful God, who sent thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, gives the blessing

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Recessional Hymn # 83

O Come All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Worship Ministers Today:

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, *Officiant*

Tom Brand, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Bob Futh, Natalie Dyer, *Ushers*

MB Witt: *Altar Guild*

MB Witt, Corinne Johnson: *Hostesses*



Reception

***There is a Reception in the Parish Hall
following the Service.
All are invited. Please join us and thank the
members of the choir.***

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vestry

Mary Davis, Worth Bracken: *Wardens*

David Gillespie: *Treasurer*

Andris Kalnins: *Assistant Treasurer*

Justin Ormand: *Clerk*

Class of 2024

Rebecca Bent, Michael Del Nin, Susan McFeely

Class of 2025

MB Witt, Sara Coles, Andris Kalnins

Class of 2026

Laura Daly, Veronique Dulack, Justin Ormand

Diocesan Delegates: Sara Coles, MB Witt

Laura Daly: **Alternate**



Tuesday, December 24th
CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 p.m. FAMILY SERVICE

10:00 p.m. MIDNIGHT MASS

All are welcome!